T&D losses of MSEB

*339. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in MSEB (Maharashtra State Electricity Board) there has been nearly 40 per cent Transmission and Distribution losses and it has resulted into a debt of over Rs. 5,000 crore to MSEBT;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this huge Transmission and Distribution losses and what steps have been taken to ensure that these are brought to the minimum nationally acceptable limit; and

(c) what is the Union Power Ministry's norms in this regard and what guidelines are issued to ensure that State Electricity Board keep within this norm?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As informed by Maharashtra State Electricity Board [presently known as Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL)] the transmission and distribution (T&D) losses for the year 2004-05 have been estimated at 35.28%. This loss includes Technical loss and Non-technical (commercial) loss. Although, it is difficult to segregate Technical & Non-Technical (commercial) loss, MSEDCL has stated that they are likely to face a shortfall of revenue of Rs.2500 crores assuming the technical losses to be about 20% and non-technical to be 15.28% (10,280 MU of energy).

(b) In MSEDCL, most of the power is generated by Thermal Power Plants, which are located in Eastern part (Vidarbha area) of Maharashtra. The demand for electrical power is, however, concentrated in central and western Maharashtra. All the power generated by the thermal plants is, therefore, required to be transmitted to Western Maharashtra over a distance of 600-650 kms. This results in high losses in Transmission network. Similarly while distributing the power to the consumers through its network there is a loss due to technical reasons (i.e. heating of conductors etc.) Over a period of time, theft of electricity by direct hooking on the LT Lines and tampering of meters etc. have been on the rise. The above reasons mainly contribute towards the higher level of T&D loss in MSEDCL.

The steps initiated by MSEDCL to reduce the T&D losses are:—

(i) Erection of new 33/11 KV sub-stations, HT Lines, distribution transformers under APDRP Scheme, so as to reduce the overloading at all levels thus reducing the technical losses.

(ii) Providing capacitors on Distribution Transformers in 20 Districts.

(iii) Distribution Transformer Metering and Energy Accounting.

(iv) Monitoring the losses in MIDC areas and Express Feeders.

(v) Detection of theft through flying squads.

(vi) Establishment of six dedicated police stations and three special courts for prevention/detection of theft cases and expeditious finalization of punishments.

(vii) High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) Scheme for theft prone areas being implemented to improve HT/LT ratio and thereby reduce the losses.

(viii) Separate feeders for Gaothans (Habitations) being planned for 4500 feeders, which will help reduce HT losses.

(ix) Procurement of distribution transformers having lesser no load losses and full load losses.

(x) System Improvement schemes for establishment of 60 new 33/11 KV sub-stations.

(c). The Government of India has launched the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) with the objective of reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) to a level of 15% improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection and improving consumer satisfaction. APDRP has been put in place as instrument to leverage distribution reforms in the States. Priority is given to projects from those States who commit themselves to a time-bound programme of reforms as elaborated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Signing of the above documents by the State Governments/SEBs/Utilities is a pre-requisite for releasing funds under APDRP.